

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, June 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilwoman Shutzer opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting June 5, 2017.”

Councilman Griffiths offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Kane; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Freehold Borough Housing Rehabilitation Program Presentation (Community Grants Planning & Housing).”

Mr. Joseph B. Bellina, Borough Administrator introduced Mary Alice Goss to present the annual update on the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Ms. Goss, Case Manager for the Housing Rehabilitation Program, reported 183 residents have shown interest in the program since 2011 and all have been invited to apply accept those deemed ineligible during the preliminary process. Ms. Goss reported the last completed applicant was in April of 2017 for electricity work, water main replacement and heating replacement. Ms. Goss reported the total cost was \$17,800 with \$17,000 provided by the Borough program and \$800 provided by the homeowner. Ms. Goss stated since 2015, 15 applications had to be terminated for various reasons. She stated the current program marketing consists of posters, a link on the

Borough Website, email blasts and in the newsletter. Ms. Goss stated she speaks within the community and promotes the program on the CGP&H website. Ms. Goss stated more applicants are needed. She expressed it is a fantastic program which consists of a 10 year forgivable loan with no interest or payments.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked how long the program has been in existence.

Mr. Bellina stated the current program has been in existence since 2001 and previous a program has been in existence since 1992.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated it is a very good program and thanked Ms. Goss for doing all that she does.

Ms. Goss stated if a resident has satisfied the 10 year loan, they can apply again for other needed work.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked the percentage of applicants that are not qualified.

Ms. Goss replied a large drop out rate is from not having enough equity. She explained the homeowner must have enough equity in the home to cover the \$17,000 mortgage that is present for 10 years and then discharged. She added applicants must meet the COAH income range based on the size of the household. Ms. Goss stressed the resident must remain in the home for 10 years.

Councilman Schnurr stated 10 years is not a lot. He added the NJ Housing Mortgage Finance Agency holds their loans for seven years.

Ms. Goss stated if the owner sells prior to the 10 year dismissal, they can pay back the \$17,000 with no interest. She explained if the buyer is income qualified and willing to take on the remainder of the commitment, they can do so. Ms. Goss stated more contractors are needed. She explained contractors are vetted and bids are received. Ms. Goss passed out information packets on the program.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Nicole Ray on the Occasion of her Attainment of the Girl Scout Gold Star Award.”

Councilman Sims introduced Nicole Ray who is an active member of Youth Government. Councilman Schnurr read the Resolution and described her Gold Star Project.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2017 Professional Services Projects with Abbington Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption,

seconded by Councilman Sims:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROJECTS WITH
ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving
Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
FREEHOLD APPROVING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSES,
JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Schnurr (K of C); absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions.

- a. Resignation of Jaclyn Reiman as Municipal Court Clerk, effective June 23, 2017.**
- b. Appointment of Timothy Ackerman as Laborer, Water & Sewer Department, effective June 19, 2017, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- c. Appointment of Timothy Zawaski as Laborer, Water & Sewer Department, effective June 19, 2017, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- d. Appointment of Justin Curet as Laborer, Streets & Roads Department, effective June 19, 2017, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- e. Retirement of Loreta Emanuel as Library page, effective September 1, 2017.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS: 9A-9E.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Sims (a); absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Sidewalk Café License, Sweet Lew’s Café, 6 East Main Street.**
- b. Raffle License #17-17, Pacing for the Cure, 50/50, 9/16/2017, 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Freehold Raceway.**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION NOS: 10A – 10B.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$807,666.00 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comments”

There were none.

Councilman Sims made a motion to close public portion, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman Sims congratulated Nicole on her Gold Star Project. Councilman Sims congratulated all graduates.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated Nicole and thanked her for completing this project. Councilman DiBenedetto asked that Paul Ketchum be kept in everyone’s prayers. He thanked everyone that voted in the Primary Election.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Nicole and added it is wonderful to see a fine young lady representing the scouting program. Councilwoman Shutzer reported the Downtown Concert Series are in full swing, Freehold Idol has begun and all of the Downtown events are wonderful. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the 4th of July events; 7/2 Fireworks with a rain date of 7/9 and the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on 7/4. She reported the police department is working with the Recreation Commission to ensure everyone’s safety for the fireworks. Councilwoman Shutzer announced Assembly members Houghtaling and Downey are sponsoring a Personal Care Drive which benefits anyone that lacks life’s basic necessities. She announced Monmouth County’s Senior to Pantry program which transports seniors to food pantries and added all information on these programs is available in the lobby. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Human Relations Committee will be sponsoring a 9/11 presentation at 8:30 AM. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Drug Alliance golf outing was rained out and is rescheduled for July 18th and golfers are needed.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming and congratulated Nicole on her tribute to the veterans. Councilman Kane congratulated Jeff Friedman and Downtown Freehold on the concerts. He stated he heard many positive comments and they are doing a tremendous job.

Councilman Griffiths congratulated Nicole. Councilman Griffiths announced Joseph McArdle is moving and will be leaving the Innovation Committee and Andrew Jacobson will be leaving the Shade Tree Commission as he will be working in China for a year. Councilman Griffiths wished them the best. Councilman Griffiths reported the Participatory Budget Ideas are being reviewed and an announcement on which ideas will be used will be made soon. Councilman Griffiths encouraged any resident that received a new tree through the Shade Tree Commission to keep it watered.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Nicole on a wonderful project and welcomed Lt. Wodell. Councilman Schnurr congratulated the graduates and thanked everyone for their support in the Primary Election. Councilman Schnurr announced the Planning Board recently granted two applications. He reported the Library received a donation from Christine Gregory and thanked her for her generosity.

Mayor Higgins congratulated Nicole and commented how beautiful the markers are. He added they are a fitting tribute to our veterans.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Sims offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc